

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1 – 16 (Canceled)

17. (New) An apparatus for feeding an optical fibre cable into a pipeline, comprising:

a feeding device having an upper part and a lower part wherein when the upper part is joined to the lower part, a forward portion of the feeding device forms a hollow space for feeding the optical fibre cable into the pipeline and a remaining portion of the joined upper and lower part forms a groove for receiving the optical fibre cable;

an engine coupled to the groove for advancing the optical fibre cable through the hollow space into the pipeline;

a friction safety clutch connected to the engine for regulating the forward feed of the optical fibre cable when feed resistance in the pipeline increases.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising;

a receptacle for receiving compressed air into the feeding device's hollow space for regulating advancement of the optical fibre cable into the pipeline.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the friction safety clutch comprises:

contact surfaces comprising low-friction material for pressing against both sides of a moving coil connected to the engine for feeding the optical fibre cable through the groove into the hollow space; and

means for adjusting operation of the safety clutch according to the optical fibre cable used and according to the pipeline parameters.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein force for pressing against either side of the moving coil is regulated to attain a controlled degree of friction by the friction safety clutch.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the engine is operated by compressed air.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the engine is an electrical motor.

23 (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the hollow space comprises a circular cross section capable of receiving the end of the pipeline.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a measuring wheel for registering the length of the cable into the pipeline, wherein the measuring wheel can regulate pressure exerted on the optical fibre cable being fed into the pipeline.

25. A method for feeding an optical fibre cable into a pipeline, comprising the steps of:

utilizing a feeding device having a groove connected to a hollow space both formed by an upper and lower part, wherein the hollow space is for receiving the optical fibre cable from the groove and connecting the feeding device to the pipeline;

advancing the optical fibre cable through the hollow space into the pipeline utilizing an engine coupled to the groove; and

regulating the forward feed of the optical fibre cable when feed resistance increases in the pipeline, using a friction safety clutch connected to the engine.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:  
receiving compressed air into the feeding device's hollow space for regulating advancement of the optical fibre cable into the pipeline.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of regulating the forward feed of the optical fibre cable using a friction safety clutch connected to the engine when feed resistance increases, further comprises:

the friction safety clutch pressing against both sides of a moving coil, connected to the engine, for advancing the optical fibre cable through the groove and the hollow.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

regulating force on the moving coil using the friction safety clutch against both sides of the moving coil to attain a controlled degree of friction.

29. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the engine is operated by compressed air.

30. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the engine is an electrical motor.

31. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising;

receiving the end of the pipeline into the hollow space;

the optical fibre feeding into the groove at a back portion of the feeding device,

advancing the optical fibre cable through the groove into the hollow space utilizing the engine and the moving coil; and

receiving compressed air for regulating forward feeding of the optical fibre cable into the pipeline.